

THE KWAJALEIN HOUR GLASS



**Divers offer
tales from
the deep**

— pages 4-5

(Photo courtesy of Mike Phenix)

WHAT'S INSIDE

**Nachi virus hits
island Thursday**

— page 3

**Commendation for
life saving awarded**

— Page 3

**Dash-6 lands safely
after smoke on board**

— page 8

Reporter loses herself on new island home

We were just sitting down to dinner around 6 p.m. when we heard a siren.

We went running for the door in a panic. Standing outside our house, we looked up and down the street, waiting for someone to tell us what we were to do now. The street was void of any life form.

After standing there for a couple of minutes looking up and down the street and waiting for people to rush from their house and let us know where we were to go, we looked at each other and crawled back into our home, I hope, unnoticed.

Although I did see some window blinds move.

I still like my island paradise, but I thought I left rush hour back in the states. Little did I know that rush hour in Kwajalein can be just as frustrating as back in the states.



Me and my Kwaj Huffy, what would I do without it.

I have used muscles that haven't seen exercise in, oh, about 50 years. I thought I was in fairly good shape.

I followed all the advice and brought lots of sunscreen, but I also should have invested in Ben-Gay, Tiger Balm and Icy Hot.

And speaking of muscles I haven't used, I am famous, now, for getting lost.

I try real hard to follow directions but, I will get lost. While on my way to the fuel pier, I wound up at the Turtle Pond. I would have found my way back to the Hourglass if someone hadn't picked up the bread crumbs. So, I tried to find my way back and wound up at, you guessed it, the fuel pier.

So if you spot a person on a purple and blue Huffy looking a little lost. Well that is me. Don't worry I will make it back, someday.

And while you are trying to keep yourself busy on this island paradise, did you know there are beaches by the airport? I thought all that was off limits, but there are actually several places of interest; glass

beach, shark pit, the runway, the golf course and a historical tour. Remember, I get lost. So getting lost isn't such a bad thing. I find things I never knew were there.

And speaking of finding things, well I went to the marina to see what the fishermen had caught that day. There I stand watching the water and enjoying the sunset at the small boat marina and all I can remember is hearing a little voice in my head, "We are going to need a bigger island."

There it was, just cruising, 'bout 4 to 5 feet long, right below my feet, in the water, a shark.

Later, I decided to take a walk on the beach, by the tide pools, looking for shells. There were hundreds of shells, but they all moved. Hermit crabs, hundreds of them. And as the sun set and darkness drew near all I could think about was the dreaded coconut crab.

I had heard stores about the coconut crab.

The monster crab which haunts the dreams of island children, crawling out from where it resides during daylight hours, and then I thought, I have to find my way home. This could take a while.

So as I pondered my situation. I started off on my trusty Huffy in what I thought was the way home.

I am still looking for the bread crumbs.

So there is a lot to do, see and experience on Kwajalein and I am just getting started.

I have only been here a month.

Letters to the Editor

Keep letters to less than 300 words, and keep your comments to the issues. This would be a no-libel zone. Letters must be signed. We will edit for AP style and, if you exceed the word limit, space. Please limit yourself to one letter every 30 days to give other readers a chance to write.

Send your letter to:

The Hourglass, P.O. Box 23, Local; or

Marshalllese Word of the Day *jaki — mat*

The Kwajalein Hourglass

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The *Hourglass* is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb 4, 1944.

The *Kwajalein Hourglass* is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to USAKA. Contents of the *Hourglass* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or USAKA. It is published Tuesdays and Fridays in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and using a network printer by Kwajalein Range Services editorial staff, P.O. Box 23, APO AP 96555.

Phone: Autovon 254-3539; local 53539.
Printed circulation: 2,000

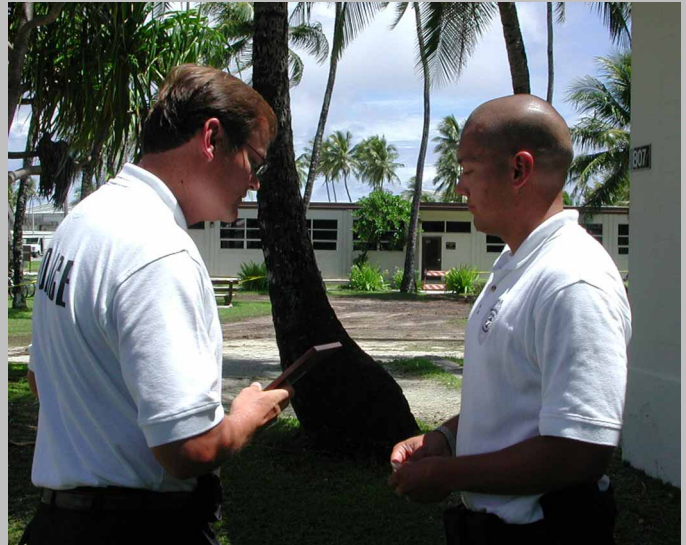
Buckminster and Friends ————— By Sabrina Mumma



Commendation

Officer John Schnereger of the Kwajalein Police Department was awarded the Life Saving Commendation bar and certificate. This is only the second commendation given out since 1995. Lt. Derrick Lemmie was the other award recipient. Schnereger was first responder in a lifesaving rescue when Mike Bowman was injured on Meck. "He was face down ... having spasms," said Schnereger. "He had a deep laceration in his shoulder. I yelled for someone to call the fire department and no one was around. I put my hand on it and just held it down," he added. Schnereger has been with the KPD for two months.

(Photo by Jan Waddell)



IT fights back after virus infects computer networks

By KW Hillis

Associate Editor

A computer virus called "Nachi," temporarily got the upper hand of USAKA's computer networks at the end of last week when it is suspected that a virus-infected zip disk from a home computer was inserted Thursday in a work computer. As a result of this virus and other viruses, the public Internet performance was also degraded due to virus-caused message traffic making it difficult for home users to log on and get to the Internet.

"What we believe happened is that we received a virus from a zip drive that came from a home user ... Literally within an hour to an hour and a half, [the virus] had infected 117 machines, crossing a couple of networks," said Mark Owens, IT manager and chief information officer.

After cleaning the system Friday, the system became re-infected later the same day.

"We're being re-infected by people who didn't [comply]" to a request from IT for everyone to logoff and use a virus clean logon Friday morning, he said.

The Nachi virus, one of many viruses including the recent Blaster virus, is circulating through the e-mail and Internet system worldwide. Hackers design these viruses to attack known holes in the Microsoft operating system, Owens said. Both Microsoft and virus protection companies immediately put out patches and virus definition files, which are both needed to stop a virus.

Nachi was first identified in the network on island on Aug. 19, stateside time. By Aug. 20, Microsoft had a patch for the virus which IT downloaded and put out in the system, eradicating that incursion, he said. Symptoms of the virus include infected computers arbitrarily shutting down, restarting and shutting down again. Other aberrations can occur, including an increase in the amount of virus-induced message traffic on the Internet, causing an access problem for those trying to get on the public Internet service.

Although the USAKA computer networks do have a virus protection system in place and the patches and virus definition files are downloaded, complicating the issue is that instead of just updating one network, IT currently has to update six networks including the public Internet.

"We have a project that is going to result in network uni-

fication that will allow us to put a patch out once and have everyone download the patch automatically and put out a virus definition in one place and have everyone go get it," Owens said. "Right now, [Friday], everything we do is times six, which is very inefficient."

Today, after a long Labor Day weekend of work which began on Thursday, IT has in place both the Microsoft System Management Software and the Software Update Server, a two-prong attack which responds to viruses.

Unfortunately, some work computers are not getting the latest virus-fighting upgrade because users are powering down their computer at the end of the day.

"As long as the machine is powered on and touching our network, we can push the software to it," Owens said. "My preference for this project is that at the end of the day, each user [should] log off and not do a shutdown."

Although the work networks can be protected with the two-prong program which increases vigilance, the weak spot, everywhere and on island, is home computers.

"A big issue and a big black eye for IT right now is the public Internet, because we don't govern home users' PCs," he said. "It isn't just home users sending e-mails to work computers, the bigger problem is that the viruses are on our home machines and a number of our home users have never purchased a virus protection software package."

Although computer users, whether at home or at work, are forewarned not to open any e-mails or attachments to e-mails from unknown senders, that doesn't always stop the viruses from infecting computers, he said.

"The hackers are getting smarter," Owens said.

Although IT and Owens have no jurisdiction over home computers in USAKA, he recommends that once someone does get access to the public Internet, which will probably be during off-hours, the first thing they do is download some virus protection files. Owens said he recommends that each personal home computer user spend the \$20 or so for the anti-virus protection software from one of the many anti-virus vendors.

As for work computers, Owens asks that everyone comply with IT's instructions despite the inconvenience.

"When I put out [an e-mail] asking everybody to log off and then log back on, there is a reason for it," he said.

Living to dive and diving for a living

By Jan Waddell

Staff Writer

The *H.L. Hunley*, a hand-carved Hawaiian fishing hook, a Volvo and the *Lusitania* all hold special memories for the members of a commercial diving crew working on the fuel pier at Kwajalein.

The Oceaneering International Incorporated Commercial dive team — Jon Sears, Jeff Hensley, Dave Dewey, Mike Phenix and Tom Reis, a consultant to Oceaneering — help make up the team repairing the pier.

Sub diving first to latest

"I have dove on the world's newest [submarine] to the world's first," Sears said.

Sears was the lead diver on the *Hunley*, the Civil War submarine which sank on Feb. 17, 1864, just outside Charleston Harbor, approximately four miles off Breach Inlet in Sullivan's Island. The *Hunley* is attributed with the sinking of the Union Navy's largest ship, the USS *Housatonic*.

"The most amazing thing was it (*Hunley*) was so small," Sears said.

According to Sears the main goal was to bring the *Hunley* up intact. The *Hunley* was then put in a large fresh water tank which would leach out the salt water. He added the archeologists took over from there.

Sears said it was slow work. A web-like basket-type device was used to bring the ship up, due to its fragile state.

"Most recoveries are quick, but we had to take our time with this one," he said.

Unlike a tug boat, which Dewey recovered by himself at 40 feet and took only five hours, the *Hunley* took days and a team of divers to bring to the surface, Sears said.

The *Hunley* was strapped with the basket before it was brought to the surface. The ship was fragile and still contained remains of the *Hunley* crew.

Sears said he has also dove on the newest ship, a Sea Wolf-class fast attack, nuclear-powered submarine.

Sears has been diving for 34 years. He has dove from California to around the globe.

"I was 6-years old," Sears said. "All I wanted to do was dive. I watched *Sea Hunt* on the TV."

"I have dove in the Red Sea and



(Photos courtesy of Mike Phenix)

Diver Mike Phenix hits the water below the fuel pier.

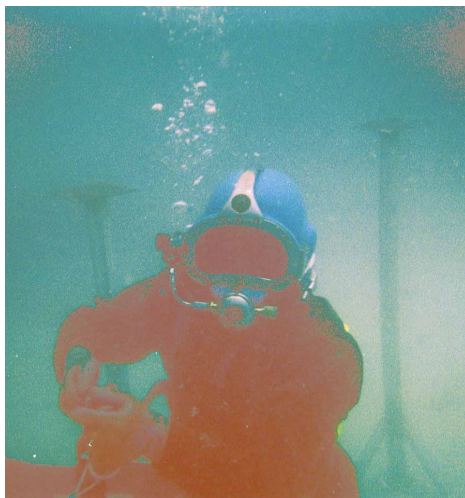
ON THE COVER: Diver Dave Dewey jumps off the fuel pier on his way to work. Dewey is a member of a crew working on a pier reconstruction project.

the coral wasn't as prolific as out here," Sears said. "This is the best I have seen.

"There are so many different types of coral growing out here," Sears said. "You just don't see it growing anywhere else. It is really disappointing to see the damage to the coral from the boats dropping anchor on the reef. There needs to be a mooring system."

From Verne to VanDamme to Kwaj

Hensley attributes his love of the



(Photo courtesy of Jon Sears)

Diver Dave Dewey installs a coral protection cage over live coral reef below the fuel pier.

ocean to Jules Vern's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." He proudly shows off his pride and joy, a hand-carved Hawaiian fish hook that was given to him after he caught an 18-pound Alua, while spear fishing.

Hensley has dove commercially for seven years including a dive on the Marianas Trench off the coast of Guam. The trench is over 36,000 feet, the deepest point in the oceans on Earth.

Based out of the Hawaii office, Hensley has dove in Hawaii and off the coast of Seattle. He has also dove with Sears on the Sea Wolf-class submarine.

Phenix has dove commercially for five years. He dove on Black Beard's ship, off the North Carolina coast.

"It was cold at just 70 feet," Phenix said.

Phenix's dive experiences have spanned from the Gulf of Mexico to Vietnam. He has worked for the movie industry doing stunt dives and as a safety diver. He worked as a safety diver on the movie "Double Impact," with Jean-Claude Van Damme. He also worked in an Israeli Volvo commercial, driving a car into the water.

Phenix's normal dive work consists of underwater heavy construction and inspection on oil rigging pipe in about 300-feet of water.

Dewey has spent most of his life in the water, and diving commercially for three years.

"I was always in the water and sopping wet. I would track water all over the house," Dewey said.

"Hands down, this is the best water I have ever seen," Dewey said. "I have never seen water like this."

Diving passion runs deep

Reis was on Kwajalein for about three weeks overseeing the reconstruction of the fuel pier, but some of his more memorable dives are in his past.

Reis took part in either consulting or actually diving on such famous historical ship wrecks as the *Lusitania*, which sailed from New York for Liverpool on May 1, 1915. Six days later, a German U-Boat, south of Queensland, sank the *Lusitania* with a single torpedo. Of the 1,959 passengers 1,195 went down with the ship, including 123 Americans.

Diver Jon Sears welds on the support beams holding up the fuel pier as part of a reconstruction project that includes applying a zinc compound coating to protect the steel.



(Photo courtesy of Jon Sears)

"We used side-scan sonar looking for the debris field of the *Lusitania*, he said. "In 18 minutes the ship went down. It was sunk by a German torpedo. We were just trying to recreate the scene."

According to Reis, they found debris from over 100 wrecks while studying the debris field of the *Lusitania*.

In the past 10 years, several advances have made locating sunken ships easier, Reis said. The pulse induction magnetometer can detect metal objects in up to 15 feet of mud. This technology was used on the *Atocha*, a Spanish treasure ship, Reis said.

Reis participated in mapping the *Atocha*, which sank in 1622 off Key West, Fla.

The *Atocha* is in about 50 feet of water, Reis said. The debris field is 12-miles long and three-miles wide. Hurricanes have moved the wreckage around the ocean's floor twice. The ship rests on a limestone base with 15 feet of sand covering it, Reis added.

Reis dove on the Spanish frigate *Juno*, which sank in a storm off Maryland and the Spanish galleon *Neustra Senora del Pilar* which sank in 1690.

Among the dozens of wrecks off the coast of Peru, is the *Anacosta*.

The *Anacosta* wreckage is in clear water, Reis said. The coral has grown up around it. What remains

of the ship is buried 30 feet below the coral. The coral formed around the sunken ship, and divers found, using sonar penetration, a void in the shape of a ship's hull in the center of the coral.

"It was really cool," Reis said.

They used sonar penetration at different levels in a small, self-contained drilling head to map the wreckage, he added.

"I do the exploration and discovery work," he said. "It is just finding the wreck that's cool."

"I am not in it for the money," Reis said. "It is a passion I have had for a while. I love it"

Reis is a civil engineer and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. He's a master captain, certified commercial diver, commercial diving instructor, scuba instructor, rescue dive instructor, a licensed blaster and member of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. He participated in body recovery, trained New York Police scuba divers, and taught under water burning.

Reis put himself through college by diving for sea urchins. He said he collected 2,000 pounds of sea urchins a day for 37 days straight.

Most recently, Reis has worked in marine construction and contracts for the military. Reis' experiences include an inspection of a water tower 170 feet in the air and pier repair in Leonardo, N.J., at Earle

Naval Weapons Station and MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla.

Getting to the bottom of the fuel pier

Reis' career has moved into repair and underwater reconstruction, which brings him and the crew to Kwajalein's fuel pier.

A zinc compound is applied to the pilings to protect the steel, Reis said. The divers will shore up the pilings and add the zinc compound to them.

Like an underwater epoxy, it will give the pier more protection in the salt water, the equivalent of a 30-year paint job underwater.

At Kwajalein hard-hat diving is used, Reis said, saying it is very safe. The divers are in constant voice contact with the surface. There is also an umbilical cord, unlimited air supply and a surface monitor.

"The system we use is five guys above the water and two in the water," he added. "You can concentrate on your work while someone else keeps you alive."

The dives last four to five hours, he added.

The hard-hat diving suits can be used down to 1,800-feet deep, Sears said.

Reis attributes success of the projects he works, including Kwaj, to an excellent, professional and experienced crew.

Said Reis, "There are old divers and there are bold divers, but there are no old, bold divers."

HELP WANTED

KRS has the following on-island job opening. Unless otherwise noted, call Alan Taylor, 55154.

CYS ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. Part time. Perform duties under the general directions of the youth activities director. Serves as an assistant youth director with responsibility for operation of the youth center and other youth activities programs. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS HOMEWORK CENTER LEAD. Part time. Serves as lead associate in the SAS homework center. Develops relationships with parents, school and other CYS program associates. Plans homework center program and supports classroom teachers. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS TECHNOLOGY LAB ASSISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to the CYS technology lead. Conducts activities under the lead's direction. Must have good working knowledge of computers and be able to assist in troubleshooting hardware, printers and software. Requires childcare clearance.

MS/TEEN HOMEWORK CENTER ASSISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to homework and technology lead. Supervises the middle school/teen homework center and program. Works closely with school staff, parents and other CYS associates. Plans appropriate activities under direction of leads. Requires childcare clearance.

FOUND

PERSCRPTION GLASSES in West Marine eye glass case found on Lagoon Road. Call 53511.

GREEN VEST and blue plastic cup at CAC room 6, Aug. 20, after *Cherokee* slide show; magnetic name tag "The Crawley Company," in front of Ten-Ten. Call 53539.

FOR SALE

ASSORTED PLANTS, love seat, curios, TV stand and other items. Call 58090.

PLANTS, \$1-\$5; precious moments baby walker, \$15; umbrella stroller, \$5; plastic table and chairs, \$6; baby bouncer, \$15; series 400 housing blinds, \$4 each; baby carrier, \$5. Call 54536.

USED CORNET for sale, \$250. Call Lynn or John at 51129.

COMPUTER parts, MS optical mouse, like new, \$30; MS

blue optical mouse, like new, \$30; HP inkjet cartridge #45, new, \$40; ASUS CD-R7RW, 32x12x40, as new, \$50; plextor SCSI CDR, 8x20, \$40; real magic hollywood DVD/MPEG2 decoder, PCI, \$40; MS natural keyboard, used, \$40. Call 51428.

SLEEPER SOFA with queen-size interspring mattress, as is, \$250 or best offer. Call 52614.

GE PORTABLE dishwasher, butcher block top, \$100. Call 52867.

YAMAHA 9.9 four-stroke, longshaft kicker, \$1,000; two windsurfer boards and three sails, \$450. Call 52725.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

KWAJALEIN Amateur Radio Club annual meeting to elect officers, vote on changes to the constitution and vote to raise the dues is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 4. 7 p.m. at the shack. Be here.

KWAJALEIN Tennis Club is hosting a tennis social and membership drive on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 6-10 p.m. at the Koenig-Jabbar tennis courts. Everyone is welcome. Bring a pupu to share. Drinks and paper goods are provided. The Majuro tournament is a topic of discussion. Questions? Call Kevin at 54785 or Wil at 52687.

BOY SCOUT Sept. 4 meeting is being held at 7 p.m. at the Chapel.

BOY SCOUT recruiting and registration is Sept. 11, 7 p.m. in CAC room 6. 12 years and older (6th grade and up) are welcome to join. Class B shirts are on sale.

THE MEASLES vaccination requirements for badged workers and all international travellers have been changed. All persons 6 months to 40 years will be required to show proof of vaccination when getting on a plane.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT clinic for Pre-K to 6th grade basketball. Sept. 5-6. Call Mark for time and place. 53796.

SCOREKEEPERS and officials needed. Pre-K to 6th grade basketball. Sept. 12. A clinic for people interested is scheduled. Paid positions. Call Mark at 53796 for time and place.

COACHES needed. Pre-K to 6th grade basketball. Sept. 3 and 10. A coaches meeting for people interested is scheduled. Call Mark at 53796 for the



Yokwe Yuk Club Gilligan's Bar

Friday, Sept. 5, 8 p.m.

TOPIC: "Is religion necessary?"

Call 53767 for more information

time and place.

YYWC presents their Island Historical Tour and Annual Membership Drive. Open to all Kwaj and Roi Gals and our sister club, Jine Tip Tip. Monday Sept. 8, 8-10 a.m. on Macy's porch. Coffee and pastries provided.

ALL USAKA access programs are reinstated. Anyone under 40 years of age must show proof of MMR immunization to pass through DSC. This includes badged workers.

JINO JEN 5:00 awa jibonin Thursday/August 3, enaj bar below access ak drelon USAKA. Aolep ro 40 yio im lalok renaj aikujiin kwalok kamol ke rar wa in measles bwe ren maron le ilo DSC, ekoba ri-jerbal ro ilo USAKA.

POTABLE WATER system main lines are scheduled to be flushed from now till Sept. 13. If you experience discolored water, flush the service line through the faucet for several minutes. If the problem persists, call 59081.

SIGN UP YOUR TWO-PERSON team for the two-person

All accompanied residents employing domestics as childcare providers, need to call Host Nation, 54848.

MADISON COUNTY COUNTRY BAND

- *THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 6 P.M., ROI SWIMMING POOL
- *FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 7:30 P.M., ROI OUTRIGGER BAR
- *SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 9 P.M., GILLIGAN'S BAR
- *SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 5:30 P.M., EMON BEACH

SPONSORED BY: **AFF** ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT

4th Annual Roi-Namur

Sept. 21 **CHILI COOK-OFF** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chili entry forms available at Macy's and Post Office bulletin board, Tradex, Gimbel's and Café Roi. Catamaran departs Kwaj at 9 a.m. and departs Roi at 4:30 p.m. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Two flights to Roi at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Return flights to Kwaj at 4:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Make reservations early by calling 56FLY.

For tickets, call: Karla, 53461/54173 Eric Rogers, 56608/56529 Angela, 52158/51059 Damon, 56446, or Stephenia, 56599/56615

golf league by Monday. League play runs Sept. 7-Oct. 31. Teams are divided into the National and American Leagues. Playoffs and World Series, to determine the champion. Play is alternate shot, handicapped. For more information, call Bob, 53768.

SELF HELP will have a limited number of potted plants available Monday at 9 a.m. Two per household. First-come, first-served.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is tomorrow and the third Thursday of every month, 9-11 a.m., in the REB. Childcare provided for infants to five years. Questions? Call Michele, 52791. Sponsored by Island Memorial Chapel.

FIFTH-GRADE beginning band meeting are Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 3-4, 7 p.m., in the elementary school music room. Fifth graders interested in playing in the school band and their parents are invited to meet with the band director and a representative of a music store. Band participation and arrangements for obtaining a band instrument are scheduled for discussion.

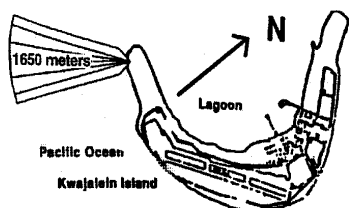
KWAJALEIN COMMUNITY Band's first rehearsal is Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7:30-8:45 p.m., in the MP room. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, call Dick, 51684.

OBSERVE POSTED SPEED LIMITS: 25mph south of Ninth Street; 15 mph north of Ninth Street; 10mph on non-paved roads; 5mph in fire lanes. Questions? Call 50505.

PASSPORT PHOTOS are taken every Tuesday, 1-4 p.m., at RTS Photo Lab, Building 1002. Pay first at Finance. Questions? Call 53773.

2003 FALL SOFTBALL season runs Sept. 6-Oct. 18. Team managers are required to attend the mandatory meeting tonight, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Activities conference room and bring a team roster and \$150 fee. If you would like to play, but don't have a team, call Kaya, 53331, and we will do our best to put you on a team. Questions? Call Kaya, 53331.

The Small Arms Range is in operation Sept. 9 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.; Sept. 10, 8 a.m.-noon and Sept. 11, 4-10 p.m. Avoid the hazard area shown below. All watercraft observe the red flags at the southwest end of the island.



See you at the movies!

Wednesday

Romeo Must Die (2000, PG13) Hang Sing is a former police officer from Hong Kong who comes to the United States following the death of his brother, the leader of an Asian crime ring.

Adult Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Monte Walsh (2003, NR) Monte Walsh and his friends are cowboys and bronco busters, plying their trade in the Wyoming Territory of 1892.

Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Quiet American (2002, R) Graham Green's allegorical novel about America's role in the Vietnam conflict and how it was perceived by the rest of the world.

Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.

Solaris (2002, PG13) A therapist travels to a distant space station to treat a group of astronauts traumatized by mysterious entities.

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Dark Blue (2003, R) A cop's personal code of justice begins to change after a number of incidents lead his city to a tragic wave of violence.

Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Hannibal (2003, R) Dr. Hannibal Lecter, one of the world's most cunning and feared serial killers, resurfaces after a decade in hiding to toy with FBI agent Clarice Starling.

Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.

Daredevil (2003 PG13) One of Marvel Comics' most popular characters comes to the screen for the first time in this sci-fi action-thriller

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

Monte Walsh (2003, NR) Monte Walsh and his friends are cowboys and bronco busters, plying their trade in the Wyoming Territory of 1892.

Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Solaris (2002, PG13) A therapist travels to a distant space station to treat a group of astronauts traumatized by mysterious entities.

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Nursing experience?

Volunteers from the Kwajalein community are needed to assist in the Ebeye Measles vaccination program.

Call Dr. Jill Horner, 52223 or 52224.

In-flight emergency

The first emergency vehicle leaves the tarmac after determining there was no immediate hazard to the crew, passengers and Dash-6 airplane on Friday morning. Half-way through a routine flight back from Roi, "a burnt odor was detected ... they saw what they thought was smoke coming from the inverter switch," said Bruce Hansen, AirScan program manager. Once power was cut to the circuit, both the smoke and odor disappeared but "as a matter of routine" the pilots declared an emergency, he said. The emergency call went out at 10:15 a.m. and 15 seconds later the Fire Department command van left the station followed by other emergency vehicles. "[We] err on the cautious side. It's better to have someone waiting than have to call someone," Hansen added.

(Photo by KW Hillis)



New U.S. Ambassador Morris hits the ground running

By Jim Bennett
Editor

With the Compact of Free Association nearing a vote in both Congress and the *Nitijela*, and a measles outbreak that has hit the Marshall Islands, new U.S. Ambassador Greta Morris had no warm-up time before starting her new job representing the United States government in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Morris visited USAKA last week, shortly after taking over the new post from outgoing Ambassador Mike Senko, who left earlier this month.

Morris met with officials and toured Ebeye, where she met *Iroij* Michael Kabua.

"Building on that human relationship is going to be very important," she said.

This is her first posting as an ambassador, but Morris isn't new to the State Department, coming to the

Marshalls from a posting at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

"It's always in the back of your mind, that it would be nice, but you don't expect to be nominated," Morris said, adding her experience in the field, "prepares you with the basic diplomatic skills."

"To be a successful ambassador and diplomat you have to learn about your country of assignment," she said.

Along with the history of the Marshall Islands, she said she recently has read about the relationship of the Marshall Islands and the United States.

"You have to know the people you're going to deal with," she said. "You need to try to communicate with the people."

Morris said communication has been key as RMI government officials have written and spoke positively of the amended Compact of Free Association, due up for approval in both

Congress and the *Nitijela*.

"I feel very confident that when the Marshallese people understand the Compact they will support it," she said. "It's a good compact that addresses well the interests of both the United States and the Marshall Islands ... One of the things this compact addresses is education and health. And that is critical. You're building on your human resources."

A former teacher, before embarking on her State Department career, Morris said "education is a priority."

Throughout it all, however, Morris points to a primary goal of "building on the very strong relationship we enjoy."

"USAKA represents the strategic link between the United States and the Marshall Islands," she said. "To use the hackneyed expression, this is where the rubber meets the road, where Marshallese are working very closely with Americans, side-by-side."

WEATHER

Courtesy of Aeromet

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers.

Winds: Southeast-southwest at 5-12 knots.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny with chance for showers.

Winds: East-southeast at 5-10 knots.

Temperature: Tonight's low 80°
Tomorrow's high 89°

September rain total: 0.21"

Annual rain total: 57.27"

Annual deviation: -1.96"

Call 54700 for continuously updated forecasts and sea conditions.



Sun • Moon • Tides



| | Sunrise/set | Moonrise/set | High Tide | Low Tide |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday September 3 | 0641/1857 | 1222/ First Moon | 0820, 4.2' 2100, 4.7' | 0220, 1.4' 1420, 1.6' |
| Thursday September 4 | 0640/1856 | 1323/0019 | 0920, 3.6' 2220, 4.3' | 0330, 1.9' 1520, 2.0' |
| Friday September 5 | 0640/1856 | 1424/0116 | 1140, 3.3' | 0540, 2.2' 1720, 2.3' |